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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5840  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 5696  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 6001  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 1223  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 4024  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5316  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1399  
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA PRIORITY 3441  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 2655  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 000915

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PINR](#) [EAID](#) [KWMM](#) [KOCI](#) [CVIS](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: MAOIST TAKES THE HELM AT MINISTRY OF WOMEN,  
CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WELFARE

REF: KATHMANDU 763

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Robert Hugins. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

New Maoist Minister Plans to Restructure Ministry

1. (C) In a recent meeting with Prem Shukla (please protect), an Indian national and the Country Director of Plan Nepal, the new Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Khadga Bahadur Bishwokarma, explained that he wanted to restructure the ministry to ensure that the maximum amount of benefits and resources reached those most in need. (Note: Plan Nepal is part of Plan International, an international humanitarian, child-centered, development organization registered in the U.S. and headquartered in the United Kingdom. It is a recipient of USAID assistance. End note.) Bishwokarma, who is one of five Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) ministers in the Interim Government formed April 1, also told Shukla that he wanted his ministry to become more "people friendly." Bishwokarma informed the Country Director that all donors and International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs) in particular would be asked to provide the ministry a complete accounting of their resources.

Comment

2. (C) There is considerable anxiety within the development community over what it will mean to have a Maoist at the helm of the Ministry of Social Welfare. Particularly those INGOs whose periodic re-certification is pending are concerned whether they will be allowed to continue operating in Nepal. Despite his fine rhetoric with Shukla, Bishwokarma's public denials of the presence of any minors in the UN-monitored Maoist cantonments, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, has revealed a striking, but sadly, unsurprising, lack of regard for Nepali children. The Social Welfare Minister has already agreed to meet with the Chief Executive Officer of Plan International, former U.S. Ambassador Tom Miller, during Miller's upcoming visit to Kathmandu. Post should have a better understanding of Bishwokarma's intentions after that meeting.

Biographical Information

13. (SBU) Prime Minister G.P. Koirala appointed Khadga Bahadur Bishwokarma as the Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare in the Interim Government formed on April 1, 2007. Bishwokarma is an alternate Politburo Member of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and is also the Chairman of the Maoist Bheri-Karnali Regional Autonomous People's Government (a Maoist parallel government structure.) Bishwokarma is the officer-in-charge of the Maoist Bheri-Karnali Regional Bureau and Chief of the Maoist Central Dalit Department. In 1988, after completing his Proficiency Certificate Level in Education, equivalent to a high school diploma, he joined the youth league of the Communist Party Nepal (Masal). When the Communist Party Nepal (Masal) splintered into two groups, Bishwokarma joined the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). Bishwokarma was born into a poor peasant family in Kalikot District on May 17, 1968. He is married and has two sons and one daughter. Biswokarma's English is marginal and he prefers to speak in Nepali or Hindi (Awadhi).  
HUGINS